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REASSURANCES ON IMPERIAL PREFERENCE

Commonwealth Interests Will Be Fully Protected

London, Mar. 24.

Sir Stafford Cripps, President of the Board of Trade, told the House of Commons to-day that Britain would certainly not give away the interests of other Commonwealth countries in reducing Imperial Preferences enjoyed by them in the United Kingdom market.

Britain was equally sure that she could count on the Commonwealth countries treating her in the same way.

Opening the debate to-day on British export and import trade with special reference to Imperial Preference, Colonel Walter Elliot, Conservative member, said that it seemed odd to the Opposition that there was very little reference to Empire markets in the White Paper outlining Britain's economic position.

"We think that the organisation of Empire markets and trade arrangements which we have made within the Empire, which have been built up over a number of years, are of the very greatest importance and that it is very worth while that they should be maintained and encouraged. The policy of Imperial Preference should not only not be slighted, but should be fostered."

Half of Britain's manufactures went to the Empire and it was difficult to believe that Britain's own prosperity would persist if these arrangements were seriously cut into.

NOT GRABBING POLICY

Colonel Elliot contested the view that Preferences were restriction of trade. It was admitted by everyone that the Preferential arrangements had been of great benefit to the Empire. Some people said that this was grabbing and selfish. That was not so. It was not true that a stable area of trade was an injury to world trade. It had been of specific advantage to the United States.

Referring to the meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference at Geneva next month, Mr Elliot said that the objective was expansion of trade and production. The way to do it was to get to grips with a few people on specific problems rather than to enter into wide international conferences under which people could find ways to escape.

The development of Empire and colonial trade was far more fruitful than a conference of this kind.

The Liberal Member, Mr R. Hopkin Morris, took the opposite view, declaring that one way to prevent Empire prosperity was by fostering Imperial Preferences.

It was not tariff restrictions which were a danger, but the device which every country had framed to control imports.

CHANGED PICTURE

Sir Stafford Cripps said that Britain must no longer regard the Commonwealth and Empire as being divided into two parts—one, the manufacturing centre of this country and the other the vast agrarian and raw material area, with which Britain could carry out a policy of exchange for foodstuffs and raw material.

To-day, many other parts of the Commonwealth had become manufacturing countries and desired to protect their infant industries as much against British as foreign goods.

The picture was changing. They all needed a variety of markets. Any idea of prevention of industrial development in the Empire was giving way to the conception that general development of industry throughout the world must be the object of all countries.

Britain could not get the advantage of freer entry into other markets, particularly hard currency markets, unless she was prepared to make some contribution to the general freeing of world markets. She could not expect others to make her any unilateral grant.

"We have got to make up our minds whether we are going to continue with a general removal of restrictions, to which we must make our contribution, or revert to restrictive policies, which greatly diminished and nearly destroyed international trade between the two wars. The Government have no hesitation whatever in choosing the first of the two alternatives."

NO MAGIC FORMULA

Sir Stafford said that the charter of the International Trade Organisation contained no magic formula for prosperity, but it established a set of rules with proper latitudes in accordance with the economic circumstances of the various countries.

The organisation sought to promote full employment on an international scale and remove barriers to international trade. The discussion at Geneva, at which Britain would be represented, would be on the establishment of international trade organisations and the very great complex of tariff negotiations.

Sir Stafford Cripps said that he felt certain all countries, including the United States, realised that at the present stage no finality could be sought on tariffs. Trade was in a dislocated condition and that was likely to go on.

"We have pledged ourselves to include in the bargaining process Imperial Preference and we shall be ready after consultation with the Commonwealth countries concerned to consider reductions in the margins of preference, both those that we grant and those that we enjoy in return for concessions which we regard of comparable value made by other countries.

"We need no one-sided obligation to increase or eliminate Imperial Preference."

COUNTRIES TO BARGAIN

Sir Stafford said that the Commonwealth countries would remain judges as to whether counter-concessions offered were sufficient to induce them to modify Preference margins in return. Other countries would similarly judge whether they were justified in making concessions that they might make.

"The Government are fully aware of the importance of Imperial Preference, both in practice and in sentiment and they appreciate the value attached to the system by other Commonwealth countries."

Mr Beverley Baxter, Conservative, asked if the Government would consider the absolute elimination of Imperial Preference if it thought that it was getting a bargain worth it.

Sir Stafford Cripps replied that the Government saw no prospect of that happening. If it was elimination of a particular Preference that might happen.

The Government would not deal unilaterally without the Governments of the Commonwealth agreeing. There would be bargains between Britain and the Commonwealth, between the Commonwealth, the United States and other countries. The question of whether Britain removed any particular Preference was a matter for her and the Dominions, just as the question of tariffs would be between the Dominions and America.

"We shall certainly not give away the interests of the Commonwealth countries in reducing Preferences enjoyed by them in the United Kingdom market and we are equally sure we can count on them to treat us in the same way and not give away. Preferences which we value in their markets.

"Whatever is given up will be part of a mutually satisfactory bargain

(Continued on Page 4)

Britain's Food Situation

London, Mar. 24.

The Food Minister, John Strachey, in a general review of the food situation, said to-day that Britain would import "much more" maize this year than the last in an effort to reconstitute her livestock industry.

He said there would be an open general importing licence for all green vegetables until the middle of June, in an effort to solve the current shortage, and price controls might be reinstituted on root vegetables.

Asked why only 120,000 tons of maize were imported last year, Mr Strachey said, "The extreme world-wide shortage of cereals for human consumption made it necessary for the International Emergency Food Council to rule that all cereals be reserved for humans. The cereals position is still very serious, but fortunately maize at least is in better supply.

"I have been enabled to make arrangements which provide us with the prospect of much more substantial supplies during 1947."

He said only about 40 per cent of the potatoes required for London reached the city during the six weeks ending March 14, but the position was now improving. Green vegetables also were in acutely short supply, he said. Potato consumption was over that of pre-war.

BANANA PURCHASES

"I propose to buy the whole exportable banana crop from the Cameroons," revealed Mr Strachey. "The terms of purchase have not been settled."

He said oil cake supplies would be about the same as last year unless an unforeseen disaster occurred.

The Agriculture Minister followed Mr Strachey to report on the enormous damage done to food crops by the current floods which, he said, caused the greatest damage and it was still impossible to assess the total results.

"All the resources of the Government were placed without stint at the disposal of the local authorities," he said. He called the situation one of "national emergency."

"These inundations following delays and loss caused by autumn rains and the frost and snow of January and February can only be described as disaster of the first magnitude, which cannot fail to have the most serious effect on home food production this year."—United Press.

Fine Flying Record

London, Mar. 25.

Captain Federick Dudley Travers, 50-year old British pilot ended his career in the air on Monday night with a record of flying 275,000 miles in 30 years without a single crash.

Travers, a bachelor, made his last flight in a British Overseas Airway's flying boat on the regular run from Egypt to Poole Harbour.

He learned to fly with the Royal Flying Corps in 1917, was a world war one fighter pilot for several years, and began regular flying on commercial runs in 1926.

Travers, closing his log book on 101,000 hours as a pilot said: "I have never had an accident, never crashed, and never had a single passenger injured."

B.O.A.C. officials despatched a radio message to him just before he came in to land, congratulating him on "over 20 years unbroken record of safely as an airline captain." — Associated Press.

Peace Treaties Signing



Mr Ernest Bevin signing the peace treaties with Italy, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Finland at the Foreign Office. On his left is Mr A. V. Alexander, Britain's Minister of Defence.

THE MOST EXPENSIVE SPEECH IN HISTORY

Three Hundred Words For A $100,000,000 Loan

Washington, Mar. 24.

Republican Representative Karl Mundt described the Under-Secretary of State, Mr William L. Clayton's statement to the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee to-day as "the most expensive speech in the history of the world."

He said "You have devoted only three hundred words to Turkey and since you ask for $100,000,000, that figures out at $333,333 per word. Let me congratulate you."

After laughter had subsided, Mr Clayton replied: "I certainly did not use all the words that could be used on the subject."

Representative Mundt proposed an amendment, earmarking $10,000,000 of the $400,000,000 credit to permit Greek and Turkish nationals to study in the United States and "observe the American way of life and democratic process."—Reuter.

OUTRIGHT GIFT

Washington, Mar. 24.

The Under-Secretary of State, William L. Clayton, told the Congress to-day that all financial aid to the Greek and Turkish armed forces should be an outright gift rather than a loan because it is essential to United States security.

Testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in support of President Truman's $400,000,000 Greek and Turkish aid programme, Clayton indicated that about half would be for military assistance—for which he said repayment should not be sought. He said military aid grants to Greece should amount to $150,000,000 and that Turkey should be given $100,000,000 for military aid and for essential public projects such as railroad rehabilitation.

Clayton pleaded that Congress leave it to the President to determine the terms under which assistance to Greece and Turkey would be furnished. He said any set of financial relations to be made must be related to realities and objectives.

ESSENTIAL ASSISTANCE

Clayton said, "I believe that assistance for military purposes is essential to our own security." He said financial aid for civilian purposes would appear to fall in a somewhat different category.

"However," he continued, "I do not believe that we should create financial obligations for which there is no reasonable prospect of repayment."

After relating how the Nazis stripped Greece to the economic bone, Clayton said the Mediterranean country now finds itself with an economy which threatens to collapse. He said about $150,000,000 would be needed to provide Greek armed forces with arms, ammunition, clothing, rations and equipment necessary "to deal effectively with the guerillas."

He added that, political and military reasons for strengthening the Greek Army have been discussed by others but "I should like to emphasize that the establishment of security is an essential prerequisite to economic stability."—United Press.

Three Negroes Hanged

Gallows Gear Fails

Accra, Mar. 24.

Three of the negro ju-ju ritual murderers were hanged late to-day after the Court rejected their eleventh-hour bid for freedom, but the execution of their two co-defendants had to be postponed when the gallows gear failed.

The two negroes whose execution had to be postponed wept silently as their comrades went to the scaffold. The two will be hanged to-morrow.

The hangings were conducted in great secrecy. A large crowd had collected outside Fort James prison but did not learn of the executions until they were over.

The first to be led to the scaffold was Aaron Eugene Bokye Denkwa, Accra businessman and eldest son of Sir Ofori Atta, former paramount chief of the Kibi tribe.

WRIT REFUSED

Following him were Kwasi Pipim, grandson of the former chief and "drummer of the talking drums" at Atta's palace, and Kwame Kagya.

Those whose lives were spared for a few hours by the failure of the gallows were Kwaku Amoako Atta, state police inspector, and Opoku Afwence, former soldier and former registrar in a native court.

The executions came only a few hours after an Accra court had rejected the defendants' applications for a writ of habeas corpus. Filing of the application early to-day had won the defendants a respite—their seventh since their conviction in 1944—only five minutes before their scheduled hanging at 8 a.m. (GMT).

Defence counsel had announced their intention of appealing the local court's decision against a writ of habeas corpus to the Privy Council in London.—United Press.

EDITORIAL

Unhealthy Atmosphere

NOTHING could be more compromising and embarrassing for the United Nations' Commission on Armaments, which convened yesterday for the purpose of finding a world-acceptable formula for scrapping war conventional weapons, than the present political trend and inferences. The United States, backed by Britain, has declared intentions to prevent the spread of communism, meaning Soviet intrigue and influence. Affording some idea as to just what this policy may involve, it has become necessary for President Truman to be asked, point blank, whether his nation is sufficiently prepared to go to war with Russia. Grasping courage from the Anglo-American pronouncements, political elements in China have become vociferous on the subject of "demarches" and "diplomatic warnings" to Moscow; the Paraguay regime discovers that it is communists who have engineered the revolt against President Morinigo, but feels that peace can be secured "at a small cost in blood and money;" the Italian authorities disclose that if underground communism is permitted to pursue its activities the only result must be full-scale civil war; and while the C-in-C of the American marines warns his World War II warriors not to discard their uniforms, but to keep them dusted, because they will probably be needed again in the near future, Russia is reported to be tinkering with a cosmic rays weapon that will make the atomic bomb the equivalent of a .303 bullet.

In this atmosphere, the United Nations Commission meets to try and hammer out an agreement on disarming the world. The United States (who will be the principal spokesman for the democracies) has already made her attitude clear: no disarmament until the peace treaties are signed, and the atomic bomb to remain a secret for the democracies. The Russian viewpoint is likely to be just as rigid: get on with disarmament irrespective of peace treaties, and let the world share atomic energy secrets. Everything now hinges on whether a spirit of genuine compromise can be injected into the meetings. It is a matter of record that when the Security Council met on this issue last February, it was confronted with the same antagonistic points of view; and that it succeeded, after much bickering, in agreeing on a blueprint for parallel negotiations on world disarmament and international control of atomic energy, plus the setting up of a UN commission for scrapping armaments of the conventional type. It accomplished this in the face of what appeared to be unconsolable policies, and it maybe that the Commission will eventually point to equally useful and important results. But it would be foolish to expect too much in the light of current political and diplomatic developments.

GREEK MINISTER'S OFFER TO STALIN

Cleveland, Mar. 24.

The Greek Foreign Minister, M. Constantine Tsaldaris, in an exclusive interview granted in Athens to the Cleveland "Plain Dealer" correspondent, John Leacacos, appealed to Josef Stalin, "as chief of the world's largest and original Communist Party," to make a public declaration to followers of the Communist doctrine in all countries that in the interests of world peace Soviet Russia prefers the victory of Communist philosophy through peaceful, democratic means and popular elections rather than armed revolution and guerilla warfare.

In return, M. Tsaldaris promised Greece would consent to free the port of Salonika to give Yugo-Slavia and Bulgaria a commercial outlet on the Aegean.

He would also consent to an amnesty for all guerillas who lay down their arms and participate in the new elections with a pledge that the Communists will be allowed to rule Greece if they win the free, popular elections.

It is understood the Communists must pledge to respect the victory of any other group in those elections if they lose.

NEUTRAL ZONE PLAN

For immediate peace along the Balkan frontiers where a UN inquiry mission has been examining responsibility, M. Tsaldaris suggested a Greek plan for a neutral zone of 10 to 20 miles wide on the Greek side of the frontiers into which guerillas could safely penetrate to surrender their arms to American, British, French or Russian soldiers, and receive amnesty protection.

He pledged to allow the guerillas to migrate, if they choose, once they lay down their arms.

As soon as disarmament of the "rebels" is completed, new Greek elections would be called within three to six months.

M. Tsaldaris said: "French and Belgian Communists have won considerable power and influence through normal participation in the political life of their countries. Why cannot the Greek Communists do the same."—United Press.

Coalmine Blaze

Heerlen, Holland, Mar. 24.

Fire broke out in the state-owned coalmine "Hendrik" early to-day and 12 hours later still was raging 1,100 feet underground.

Rescuers were handicapped heavily by the heat and smoke pouring from the mine entrance, but rescue efforts were continuing. Thirteen miners overcome by the smoke were brought out, but one was already dead.

It was feared that the 11 men still in the mine were dead, although the search for them continued as far as possible.

The cause of the fire, which spread rapidly to a length of 100 metres, was not known.—United Press.

DEATH SENTENCES IN CHALK PIT MURDER TRIAL

London, Mar. 24.

The 66-year-old former Minister of Justice of New South Wales, Thomas John Ley, and Lawrence John Smith (38), a London joiner, were to-day sentenced to death for the murder of a 35-year-old barman, John McMain Mudie, whose rope-bound body was found in a partly dug grave at a chalk pit in the country near London on November 30.

The trial had taken five days at the famous London court, Old Bailey, and evidence had been given of Ley's relations with a 66-year-old widow, Mrs Maggy Brooks.

The prosecution case was that Ley became jealous over Mrs Brooks, accusing her wrongly of undue familiarity with Mudie.

Before the sentence of death was passed, Ley told the judge:

"I am not surprised at the exploitation of the allegations about jealousy, suspicion and motive and suchlike nonsense when you refuse to allow me to state in the box what I wanted to say. I am perfectly innocent. I regret very much that I have at my time of life suffered an injustice of this kind."

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Goddard, summing up, told the jury:

"If you think that Ley was suffering from unreasoning jealousy for this woman you may think it throws a flood of light on the whole of this story."

In the final speech for the prosecution, Mr Anthony Hawke said that Mudie was found dead from strangulation in the chalk pit, having undoubtedly been transported from a house in London to which he had been decoyed as the result of a plot engineered by Ley.

Referring to Ley's accusations about Mrs Brooks, Mr Hawke asked: "Is it saying too much that at one particular stage this man is obsessed almost to the point of being unbalanced? By midsummer has not that poisonous suspicion become centred on this man Mudie?"

For Ley, Sir Walter Monckton said: "What a story it is of this old man of 66 years and an old woman of 66 years between whom there had been no familiar relations for ten years. It is hard to believe that there should have been such acute jealousy which would drive a man to crime."

Counsel for Smith described him as "just a simple joiner who has been debauched by this incident for the payment of £200."

Smith had stated in evidence that he helped to get Mudie into Ley's flat, but that he was not harmed.

Mrs Ley, 66-year-old wife of accused, who flew from Australia to be present at her husband's trial, was in court most of the day, but had left when the verdict was announced.

Ley, who was one of the British Commonwealth representatives at Geneva in 1927 and in the following year was at the Berlin economic conference, bowed low to the judge after being sentenced to death. Without looking round the court, he walked, with a smile on his lips to the top of the stairs leading to the cells.

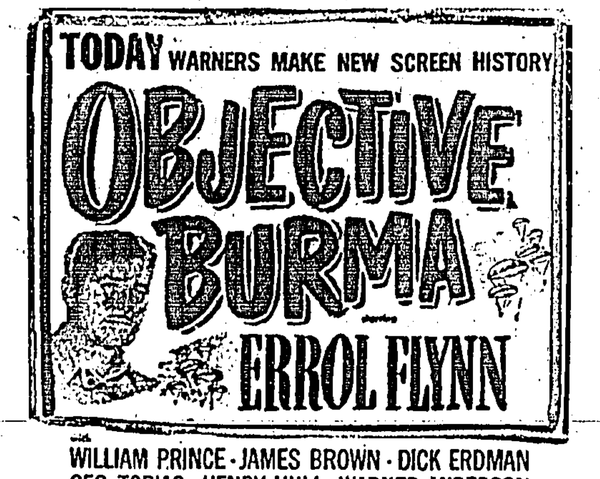
Smith, showing no sign of nervous tension, hurried quickly after Ley.—Reuter.

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GERMAN PRISONERS ON THE ROAD BACK

How they live in British camps what they do and are thinking ... Rebirth of the Church ... Lessons in Democracy

BY PETER LOVEGROVE

IN the middle of the night of September 19/20 1944, one thousand five hundred sullen men under guard tramped from Colchester North Station to Berechurch, a distance of some four miles, and were brought to a halt in a wide field encompassed by barbed wire. The night was very dark and the ground squelched with mud. There was no cover, and tentage had to be obtained from a supply dump a short distance away. When dawn broke, the men went about setting up the tents and drawing tinned rations. It was a cheerless scene; the men were wet and despondent; some thankful they were out of the hell that was Normandy; others highly indignant to find that everything had not been "laid on" for them; all wondering what captivity would be like.

For these were German prisoners, the first large body of men captured around Caen to be brought to the Eastern Command area. The following night they were joined by another 1,000 and by 24 September, over 6,000 of Hitler's Westwall defenders were encamped around Berechurch. Among them were men who had participated in the 1940 Blitzkrieg, sung "We March Against England" in the Paris cafes, and had been scheduled to land in Britain after the Luftwaffe had disposed of the Few.

IT was no new experience for historic Colchester to have alien troops in and around its Roman walls. Through all the years, its story is one of marching armies, beleaguered garrisons, fortified camps and confined prisoners. After three centuries of Roman occupation, Jute Saxon and Angle brought fire and slaughter to the city; later, the Dane's Black Army, with double-headed axe and sharp arrow massacred the entire townspeople. After Crecy, French prisoners of rank were held in the castle; Dutch soldiers, Scotsmen, religious malcontents and State prisoners have been imprisoned there at different periods.

With the coming of the Hanoverian monarchs, even German mercenaries have been stationed there. Records show that in 1809, four squadrons of German cavalry were employed to suppress a rising of the militia at Ely, and there was a great outcry in the country when these foreigners were ordered to flog the leaders. More recently, when British troops left for the Crimea, troops from Hesse, known locally as the German legion, were quartered in Colchester.

Over two years have passed since that wet night when the first remnants of the Wehrmacht reached Berechurch. The desolate meadow has become, in the words of Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, first German from Germany to visit 186 POW Camp, a "gilded cage." The tents have given way to rows of Nissen huts and brick buildings; concrete roads run where once muddy paths meandered; there are ornamental flower beds and vegetable gardens; it is all neat and trim. The sullen, despondent men themselves are changed; despite the barbed wire, the sense of frustration and injury, many of these men have learned much which was always closed to them; they find a new hope in the future.

And now they are on their way home to participate in the reconstruction of a new and, we hope, a better and peaceful Germany.

The Government recently announced its scheme for the accelerated repatriation of the 394,000 Germans held in Britain, a decision which has meant much at Berechurch, for 186 is the Base Transit Camp for the whole of Eastern Command, where men for repatriation are collected from other Commands, and every week 1,000 men pass through its gates on the road back.

PRIORITY in repatriation is given to those prisoners who were known to be anti-Nazis before 1939 or who have shown since a "positive democratic attitude" and are likely to play a useful part in the rehabilitation of Germany. For the most part such men are controlling prisoner groups or occupy other responsible positions. Next highest priority goes to workers, such as timber workers and miners, particularly those who have volunteered to work in the mines. A certain number get preferential treatment on compassionate grounds, and thereafter, the general criterion is length of service spent in captivity.

Only those men whose homes are in the British Zone can at present be sent, but agreement is being sought from the other controlling powers in Germany for the reception in their respective areas of men who were domiciled there.

Unbending Nazis are not in the running at all, nor are high-ranking officers, whether or not they have political leanings. All told, some 15,000 men will go back every month, five times as many as in the past. The dispatch of all the prisoners will take 26 months under these arrangements, but it is possible that it will be speeded up if sufficient regular shipping can be organised.

186 Camp does not only cater for these transient guests. It is the largest camp in Eastern Command and also holds a number of men who cannot work outside for a variety of reasons; some who are awaiting distribution to labour-units; hard cases of Nazis labelled "Blacks"; a few in protected custody who may be arraigned as war criminals; and a number of officers of all ranks, from subalterns to a major-general. Total population over 6,000.

Prisoners do all the camp maintenance in this trim, well-laid, town-within-a-town. They bake their own bread, repair their own boots, do their own laundry, run their own shows and produce their own newspaper. The huts, shower-baths and drying rooms, and the roads were all built by German labour. "We're very proud of the results," said the Lagerfuehrer, a mild-looking grey-haired man of 50 from Munster, who served in the two world wars and sixteen years in the Reichswehr before being put in the bag in Normandy.

The men are most enthusiastic about their entertainment halls. The "Kleinkunst Buhne", variety-hall, was managed by a professional artiste who has just been repatriated.

ONE of the most important features of the camp is its religious instruction. There is a theological college, where suitable men are trained for the Roman Catholic Church; there, they learn what Christianity means, the structure of the church, fundamental principles of social life, the family and the state, as well as mathematic, physics, biology, German art and philosophy, ancient and modern languages. Only 40 students turned up at the first lesson in March 1945, but by July the number had risen to 147, and now there are several hundreds attending the six-week courses.

I also saw two chapels, beautifully and simply decorated; in one, an artist was painting on an old piece of canvas and a home-made easel, a biblical scene which is destined for the main altar.

The thirst for knowledge is not confined to religious affairs. Since May 1945, when a school opened, men have received technical and agricultural training, and learned English and other foreign languages. Discussion groups are held regularly; lecturers come from universities and the Political Intelligence Department; the men can also go to the re-educational training centre at Wilton Park, where they get a course in the democratic way of life.

The value of these open forums is obvious. The men are interested in them; they ask pertinent questions; they want to know how the British machine ticks. It would be idle to pretend that they are being converted to democracy; they have been part of a rigid machine in which individual thinking was discouraged for too long, and they have the natural and inevitable bias to discount much of what they hear as propaganda.

No doubt they cannot see Germany's present day tragedy against the background of the fearful iniquities committed by their leaders and so many of their comrades. No doubt they have little sense of their guilt, and they blame Britain not only for the barbed wire around them, but also for the destruction of their cities and the misery that has befallen their people; for having given guarantees to Poland; even, in some cases, for not having shown long before 1939 that we meant business. Democracy, to men who are accustomed to carry out orders unquestioningly and methodically, seems a slow, cumbersome and unconvincing affair.

But, after all, many of these must have been Nazis because they had little or no opportunity of being anything else, and their willingness to try to think and discuss objectively and above all to learn about others' ways may bear fruit one day. It is too early to tell now.



AN EVENING OUT IN 1914 . . . and other memories

by BERNARD HARRIS

A MAN has been wistfully recalling an evening's outing in the London of 1914.

He bought a snack supper, a glass of beer, a cigar, enjoyed a variety show . . . and returned home with 2d. change out of 1s.

If we can rely on Mr. Dalton it should be possible to repeat such an outing in 1946 for an expenditure of 1s. 8½d.—which, as everyone knows, is absurd.

WHAT WARS DO

The Chancellor solemnly assures us that our pound to-day still retains 49 percent of its 1914 purchasing power. It may be possible to reach such a conclusion by skilful juggling with wholesale prices of commodities.

But, so far as the day-to-day expenditure of ordinary folk is concerned, it is pretty certain that our 1947 paper pound is worth barely a quarter of the 1914 golden sovereign.

It is a sobering experience to glance at the newspaper advertisements of 1914 and see the havoc which two wars have inflicted on our economic set-up.

The other day a three-bed-room house near where I live on the outskirts of London was sold for £4,200. In 1914 such a house would have cost, new, £400. You could buy a house with six bedrooms and three reception rooms for £700.

And you could furnish it for less than £100. A 3-ft. walnut dressing-table, with two drawers and a bevelled swing mirror, cost £2 2s.; an oak bedstead, complete with bedding, £4 4s.; a 12ft. 6ins. by 10ft. 6ins. Wilton pile carpet, in two tones of green, £5 5s.

Complete dining room suites sold as cheaply as £2 2s., and pianos were priced from £6 6s. upwards.

Mills in Dewsbury were offering woollen blankets, 72 by 52ins., for 4s. 3d. a pair. White Witney blankets ranged from 10s. 6d. to 16s. 6d. a pair.

For baby you could buy a complete set of "surpassingly beautiful" long clothes—50 pieces—for 21s. His pram, with wired-on tyres, cost £2 5s.

CHEAP GOWNS

As for clothes, the young ladies could buy chiffon evening gowns for 52s. 9d. Women's serge suits were 45s. 9d. black velour coats £6 6s. A fur coat of black wolf, "hardly distinguishable from black fox," cost £2 12s. 6d.

Spun silk stockings were 3s. a pair, doeskin gloves 2s. 6d. For 5s. 6d. you could buy "a fine nainsook night-gown" or a dozen lawn handkerchiefs.

Box calf laced shoes for ladies, "excellent for walking," were priced at 7s. a pair. Similar shoes in glace kid for the children cost 4s. 6d.

Usual price of a man's lounge suit was around £3 15s. His boots were 12s. 9d. to 16s. 9d., his bootlaces 4½d. a dozen. Pyjamas were available for 6s. 11d., braces for 1s., a leatherlined motor coat £2 15s.

Typical food prices of 1914 were: Fat chickens 3s. 6d. to 4s. a pair; parcels of fish, direct from Grimsby, 6lb. for 2s. 9lb. for 2s. 6d.; Cheddar cheese 1s. 1½d. a lb.; margarine 6d. a lb.; finest smoked Danish bacon, "sold by the side or halfside," 10d. a lb.; plum jam 10½d. for 3lb.; eggs 16s. for 120; eating apples 4s. a bushel.

A standard brand of cigarettes, now 1s. 2d. for ten, cost 3d., or 1s. 1½d. for 50. Cigars were 3d. each, five for 1s. Pipe tobacco, now 2s. 8d., was 5d. an ounce.

Scotch whisky was 4s. 6d. a bottle, compared with to-day's 25s. 9d. and a black market price of £3 upwards.

There was no need for rent tribunals in 1914. A "nice bedroom, with breakfast, in a select home in Maida Vale" could be had for 12s. 6d. a week. Or you could get full board in Denmark Hill for 18s.

Usual change in a moderate-size hotel for bedroom, breakfast and bath was 3s. 6d.

Instead of the 8gns. and 10gns. a week which many of the seaside landladies have been extorting last summer, you could enjoy a "liberal table" in a Margate seaside boarding house for just 1gn.

3/– EXCURSION

The Great Eastern Railway would take you on a half-day excursion to Clacton-on-Sea for 3s. return, and the Great Northern would take you from King's Cross to Skegness and back for the same money.

You could see many of the London shows for 6d. If you went up to 1s. at a matinee you not only obtained a comfortable seat but had tea provided as well.

Chelsea were playing Tottenham Hotspur 32 years ago yesterday. They attracted a big crowd—at 6d. a head.

Mr. Dalton, then 28, was married in 1914. No matter what the figures show, I am sure he will agree that his money went much more than twice as far as it does now.

BY THE WAY

by Beachcomber

A CHEERY headline has informed us that "Britain is Building A Bigger And Faster Electronic Brain."

If scientists can attach this brain to a super-stratospheric-jet-rocket, the brain will be able to have breakfast in Norwood and on the evening of the same day do sums in the moon. And if that doesn't satisfy you, what on earth do you expect from the millennium?

Scene at meeting

A DISTURBANCE broke out at a meeting of the Friends of International Culture. A man protested loudly at the wearing of shirts inside waistcoats, and proudly displayed his own shirt which was hanging loose over his waistcoat. The chairman said that this had nothing to do with the proceedings, and the man was led out crying. "This is pure Fascism." An S. O. W. handbill was found afterwards on the dais, calling on the democracies of the world to wear their shirts outside their waistcoats.

Butch Garbo and . . . Lefty Dietrich

THE report that Butch Garbo and Lefty Dietrich are both likely to be in England for a week in the near future has led to the cancelling of all Army leave. The idea of imposing a curfew on London, to keep the crowds out of the streets has been rejected. Instead, gunboats will be moored in the Thames, to fire blank at stated intervals, over the heads of the milling multitudes. Extra doctors will be moved in from the country districts. Tanks and armoured cars will precede and follow the two ladies. Their hotel will be taken over and fortified by troops, and applications for autographs will have to be passed by a specially constituted Autograph Board. Planes will patrol the air above London all day long, writing the names of the ladies in coloured smoke.

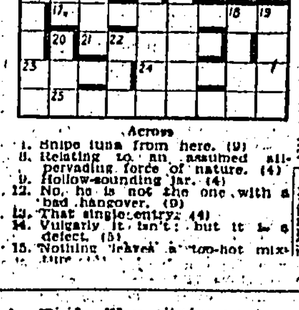
Tail-piece

A telephonist's wife has given birth to triplets.

(News item.)

The proud father, looking at one of his infants, probably said, "Sorry you've been trebled."

CROSSWORD

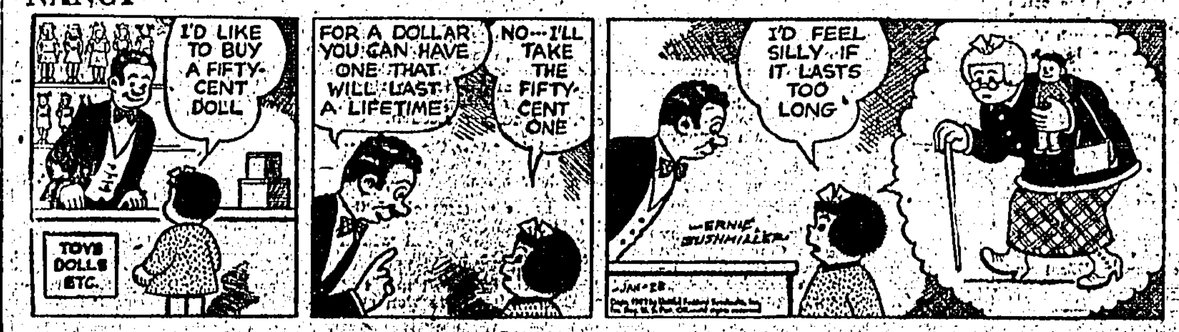


Across
1. Snipe runs from here. (9)
8. Relating to an assumed all-pervading force of nature. (4)
9. Hollow-sounding jar. (4)
12. No, he is not the one with a bad hangover. (9)
13. That single entry. (4)
14. Vulgarly it isn't; but it is a defect. (5)
15. Nothing behaved a too-hot mix[illegible]
17. Indicates lack of politeness. (8)
21. Leg, below knee to foot. (5)
23. Too. (4)
24. The song suggested you kept this side up. (6)
25. See 1 Down.

Down
1 and 25. Hecklers' Mecca. (9, 8)
2. His revision is final. (6)
3. Snowy, white. (7)
4. You wouldn't call this a hot line in sweets. (3)
5. No threats from this quarter surely. (5-4)
6. Sort of bean. (4)
7. It may be exuded from the oak, and it is present in peat. (5)
10. Languid or drooping. (4)
11. A tin in opposition ? (4)
16. Boredom. (5)
18. In the U.S.A. only half a human store house. (4) 19. Utters. (4)
20. It may exude 7. (3)
22. Farm implement. (3)

Solution of Saturday's puzzle.—Across: 1, Faltering; 7, Liar; 9, Lend; 11, Urged; 12, Money; 14, Seed; 15, Eaten; 16, Errant; 17, Exchequer; 21, Taut; 24, Eighteen; 25, Drop goals. Down: 1, Flustered; 2, Aired; 3, Lager; 4, Elder; 5, Remarque; 6, Giant rays; 8, Red; 10, No[illegible]; 18, Cos; 19, Pat; 20,

NANCY Half the Time Is Plenty By Ernie Bushmiller



When You Feel Tired and Restless
take
Elliotts Nerve
and
Brain Tonic
On Sale at All Dispensaries

Women This Space Every Day

BEAUTY ARTS

By LOIS LEEDS



Posed by Thelma Altman for Lois Leeds.

Dramatise your Eyes, but first "frame" them!

EYE TO EYE!

If you have never received a compliment on your eyes, it is time to look into your Eyes! Regardless of colour, size or shape, your Eyes are one of your most striking features. They can be pensive or sparkling, demure or coquettish, but they MUST be healthy!

In addition to being healthy, rested and beautifully groomed, there is also another way in which to focus attention on the "mirrors of your soul." Just look at the above photograph of Thelma Altman, star of the Metropolitan Opera and you will see what I mean.

You will notice that your attention is immediately drawn to Thelma's eyes. Why? Because they are becomingly framed by well-defined eyebrows, which are shaped without being too thin, strong without being "bushy." Although they have been told many times that eyebrows must have a definite curve, there are still too many women who pluck out almost all of their eyebrows and then, to compensate, pencil in ugly lines. The result is——eyes which look hard and aged under such a stiff frame!

When you pluck your brows you might take a tip from Thelma, who first smooths on some cold cream to avoid red splotches. Hold the skin taut as you pluck. Always pluck in the direction in which the hairs grow.

Of course, before you start you must decide just where the thinning and shaping should be done. It's so easy to keep plucking until you have too little left!

For the finishing touch, smooth a very tiny bit of brilliantine on your brows, then brush in the *opposite* direction to which the hairs grow. Then brush the eyebrows into a smooth, gleaming "frame" for your eyes and hear the compliments!

Minute Makeup by GABRIELLE



If you have a heart-shaped face, you are lucky, but—The Heart-shaped face needs softness across the forehead, a little height at the sides, high on the head. And the Heart-shaped Face needs "pretty" makeup—soft, subtle shades, well blended!

Table with a wobble

WHAT ought you to do when you're buying a table or any other four-legged piece of furniture? Take hold of it firmly at diagonally opposite corners and test it for "wobble."

This tip—taken from a booklet mentioned at the end of this article—seems pretty obvious, but few of us act on it.

We're so taken with the colour of something, or the shape or the size, we forget to check up on the more practical issues.

On the whole, though, we're better shoppers-for-the-home than we used to be. Shortages and having to adapt things for various uses have made us more discerning.

We can no longer go into a shop and order a complete roomful of furniture, unless you're very rich. We have to build up a room bit by bit, depending far more on our personal taste and eye for colour than we used to.

Which means that when the room is finished, it is more expressive of our personality than if we'd bought it "ready-made."

BUT it also means that we are likely to make mistakes. How are we to avoid this and yet be individual in our homes?

By learning all we can about design and furnishing; by learning to develop our taste and eye so that we will know whether a chair in a shop window will "go" with the furniture we already have.

Three booklets brought out by the British Council of Industrial Design tell you many of the things you want to know.

FURNISHING FABRICS

Tells you not only how fabrics are made but which are most suitable for certain purposes. NEW HOME deals with furniture and decoration. And DESIGN QUIZ tests your taste on twelve things which range from an armchair to electric fire.

You may not be able to buy everything you want now. But you can develop your taste and knowledge so that when you do buy, you buy right.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



—COPR. 1947 BY NEA SERVICE, INC. T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

"I'll be back on the job tomorrow with the cold licked if I can avoid a nervous breakdown from worrying about what's happening to three families on the radio!"

Split Personality Of General Smuts

What he calls "another side to the Royal visit to South Africa", is given by a young coloured South African student from Capetown, B. M. Kies, in a contributed article to the Left Wing Tribune, published in London.

"It concerns," he says, "the side of the South African tour which your King and his family will not see and you will not hear about.

"It may not be considered headline news in a country where divorce and murders regularly make front page, but it might be just as well for you to shed a few illusions you may harbour about what goes on behind the gold curtain.

"There are eight million non-whites in South Africa, and to us it seems not a little strange that in order to recover from the strains of six years of war against Nazism, your King and Queen should choose to visit the very country where there exists not only herrenvolk, rooted in the ideal of its divinely racial superiority and the mission to rule, but also a system of government comparable in its essentials to that of Nazi Germany."

In reference to General Smuts, Kies says: "The split personality of the gentleman may not be known to the outside world, but we non-whites in South Africa have a characteristic way of describing it. We say that Smuts has two suits. One is his boiler suit, which he wears at home while engaged upon his life's task of completing the Hertzog-Smuts master plan for the total segregation and subordination of non-whites. The other is his Sunday suit worn only on a visit to imperial and peace conferences, UNO meetings or any other gatherings where he may have to make some of his speeches as the Grand Old Man of the Empire."

Colonel Blimp

The writer concludes: "As yet we may not be as articulate as the other oppressed people. We are very poor people and our pennies have to go to the building up of our movement for full democratic rights.

"And so we have not been able to tell you and the rest of the world much about the fact that to the majority of its inhabitants this much vaunted dominion now honoured by a visit from your Royal family is a spot as black as Nazi Germany was.

"You might remember this when you read the glowing reports of the tour, or when Colonel Blimp assured you that our people are like happy children except for the usual bunch of agitators and Communists. The Colonel made the same mistake in Singapore and Malaya".—Reuter.

LETTER FROM LONDON

BY JOHN SHIPTON

Shelley may have derived inspiration from the "cold earth sleeping below" and fields of snow, and once compared an icicle to a tear-drop, but luckless Londoners, shivering through their fifth successive week of some of the bitterest weather for the past half century, have hardly been moved by such lofty thoughts. Nor are they deriving much consolation from the forecasts of a bright late Spring and a good summer which optimistic meteorologists are now spreading around.

The tremendous efforts made to produce and move the coal by miners, railwaymen, troops and prisoners of war, and the saving of fuel from the restrictions on domestic and non-industrial consumers of electricity, resulted in the steady building up of stocks, and at one time it looked as if a restart of industry in the London area was imminent. But then just as bulldozers, snow ploughs, elbow-grease and even jet propulsion aero motors had cleared the drifts and the situation was almost normal again, fresh blizzards—reaching a force of 30 mph in London—and snowstorms created fresh havoc on the vital lines throughout the country.

Ice floes in the North Sea threatened to straddle the shipping routes in the mouth of the Thames, and heavy seas once again closed North-Eastern ports, sealing up coal-ship for 48 hours.

Fewer People In London

The freak weather and the fuel problem have naturally thinned out the ranks of the overcrowded metropolis. There is less traffic on the roads—which are like skating rinks at night and soon get churned up into grey slush in the daytime—and it is possible to unfold the evening paper in the Tube even during the rush-hour peak.

There has been considerable curtailment of public engagements, and for the first time since air raid days, it is possible to book a room in a hotel at short notice.

Heat and lighting conditions in the big shops vary greatly,—some have their own generating plants running on oil or coke furnaces and acetylene lighting, others have been opening only between 12 and 1.45 and from 4 to 5.30. But they are getting some consolation out of the fact that we are nearing the end of the ration period and clothing coupon books are probably empty.

Skating has been taking place on the Serpentine, the Round Pond in Kensington Gardens, the lakes in Regent's Park and St James' Park, while Hampstead Heath, Epsom Downs and Box Hill (Surrey) have been the scene of tobogganing and ski-ing. One still comes across an occasional snowballer, but even to the children, the thick snow has ceased to be a thrilling novelty.

Chilly citizens of Westminster with empty scuttles have had a windfall. Tarred road blocks, which were taken up from West End streets last summer to make way for asphalt, are now being sold for fuel. Six selling depots have been opened and householders are limited to a daily ration of 20 blocks.

Cut For Periodicals

Among the most publicised casualties of the cuts have been the periodicals, which are suffering a fortnight's ban, and the BBC's Third Programme. The suppression of the whole of the British Press outside daily and local newspapers has aroused considerable adverse comment; it has even been described by the Manchester Guardian as one of the most arbitrary acts of the Executive yet to be recorded.

However, the weekly journals of opinion, such as the New Statesman, Time and Tide, Spectator and Tribune, a few of the most popular weeklies, and church publications, though they have had to put up with a break in continuity, have not been completely orphaned by the storm. The National dailies have offered them hospitality, and some of the best-known features of these publications have been kept before the public in this way—proof that the fellowship of the Press is not impaired by political opinions.

Delightful Nonsense

Stage show of the week,—and for very many weeks to come—is a lively American farce at the Garrick, "Born Yesterday," produced by Laurence Olivier. It is most delightful nonsense about a self-made junk merchant who goes to Washington to buy a few senators and some dubious legislation. Afraid that his ex-chorine sweetheart will impede his social progress through her ignorance, he engages a Radical journalist to improve his mind. She not only falls for the journalist but also develops a social consciousness based on Abraham Lincoln and the Rights of Man and the Age of Reason and wrecks his corkscrew plans.

New star Yolande Donlan, whose first appearance in London this is, steals the show with her mincing immodesty and dumb innocence.

The arctic spell did not prevent 95,000 enthusiasts from turning up at Ibrox Park to watch Rangers in the Scottish Cup, but once again over 50 percent of the football fixtures were cancelled. It seems inevitable that there will be considerable congestion of fixtures at the end of the season, unless it is further extended, as is now being suggested, to the end of May.

Rugby has suffered even more than Soccer during the past five weeks—even the international between England and France could not be played — and the Union authorities have also extended their season. The postponed international will now take place on April 19.

INCREASED MINERAL OUTPUT

To meet China's acute sulphur shortage, the Central China Mining Administration of the National Resources Commission is making strenuous efforts to increase the output of pyrite from the Ma-An-Shan mine near Nanking, says a report in the North China Daily News.

The daily production is now 120 tons, and may soon reach 300 tons, upon complete restoration of the mine which was in a badly damaged state last July when the Government entrusted the mining property to NRC. operation. The mine has been in partial operation since February.

Having upwards of 40 percent sulphur content, the pyrite produced from the Ma-An-Shan mine is highly suitable for making pulp, sulphuric acid and ammonia sulphate, which are essential raw materials for the paper, fertiliser and other chemical industries.

China needs considerable sulphur for industrial purposes, but under present conditions Chinese pyrite is being produced at a rate far short of actual requirements.

Chinese Magnesite

Chinese magnesite will soon be available in quantity for export as steps are now taken by the National Resources Commission to restore the rich Tashihchiao magnesite mine in Liaoning, Manchuria, which under Japanese occupation sold to Europe and America 400,000 tons of its yearly 600,000-ton output.

Resumed production is shortly expected with the stepped up repairs of the existing productive equipment which was heavily damaged during the war.

Magnesite is an essential raw material not only for the iron and steel industry but also for paper and enamel manufacturing, and Chinese magnesite sells well both at home and abroad.



TUTOR TO OCTOPUS WANTED

Would you like to be tutor of an octopus?

If you have had training in biology or medicine, the appointment is now vacant at University College, London, at a salary of £800 a year.

The successful applicant will want patience, but he or she (women are eligible) will find the "student" willing to learn; a reporter was assured by 39-year-old, Bristol-born Professor J. Z. Ypung, Professor of Anatomy at University College, that the octopus is no fool.

Common Ground

Asked what was the purpose of the experiment, Professor Young said:

"We want to find out what makes a human being intelligent," he said. "We are going to try to 'break down' the octopus' brain and the brains of other creatures most unlike man because we hope to find a 'common denominator' to all brains which will 'tie up' with man's brain.

One Failed

"Motor-car engines, to take an illustration, are all shapes and powers outwardly. But they all have a common denominator say, a cylinder or sparking plugs. Thus you have a clue to the working of all internal combustion engines."

NOTE.—The cuttle fish, smaller brother of the octopus, as been tried out already. He failed in his examinations because every time he lost his temper he squirted ink into his tank and disappeared behind it.

Tells You How To Fast

In India, where fasts unto death are a popular weapon with which to support political or other demands, a noted Indian scientist has issued a treatise on the "chemistry of fasting."

He recommends the taking of mild alkalies to neutralise the body acids produced by fasting, declaring:

"In starvation, glycogen of the body disappears first in three or four days, leaving fats and proteins to be oxidised. Quick oxidation of fats and proteins takes place and generates aceton bodies which are poisonous."—Associated Press.

1948 Equestrian Events In Olympics

Equestrian competition at the 1948 Olympics will start with the three-day endurance and jumping event either near Windsor or at Aldershot, and conclude with the Prix des Nations in the Olympic stadium.

Three horsemen from each nation will compete in the finals. They will be tested by from 10 to 20 jumps, including a 13-foot wide water obstacle with a hedge in front, on each round of the course.

Germany made a clean sweep of the equestrian events in the 1936 Olympics, but, blacklisted for its war role, it will not be represented in 1948.—Associated Press.

Rupert & the New Pal—12



At the shops, Rupert goes through the long list and finds that all the things will fit into the trolley. "Now let's have a bit more fun," says Bill, who has quite recovered. But Rupert stops him. "No you don't!" he laughs. "Your ideas have brought us enough trouble already! We'll have no more larks until I've got the garden trolley and all these precious things home. Then we'll go out together and perhaps we can solve the mystery of that black cat."

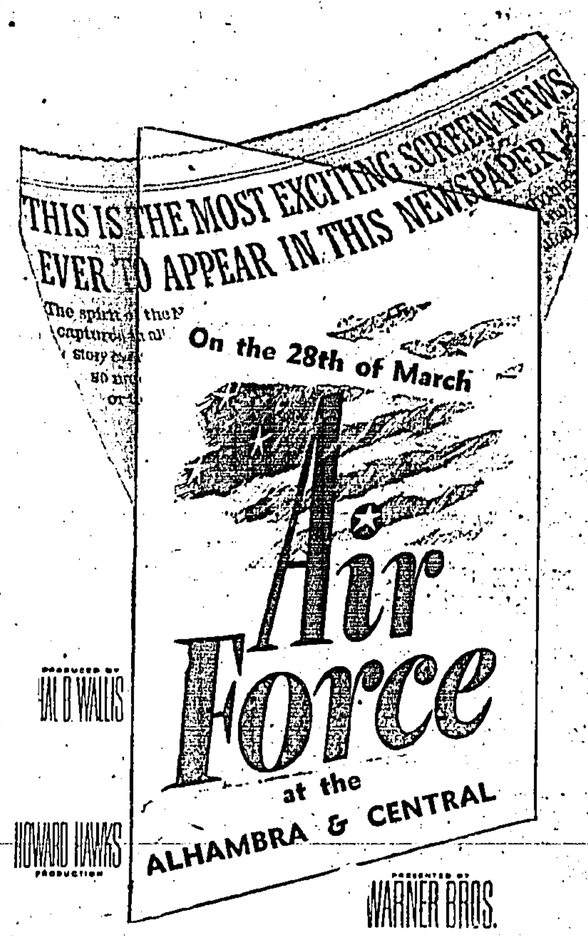
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NOW SHOWING ★ KINGS ★ At 2.30, 5.10, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m.



ADDED! Latest British Paramount News!

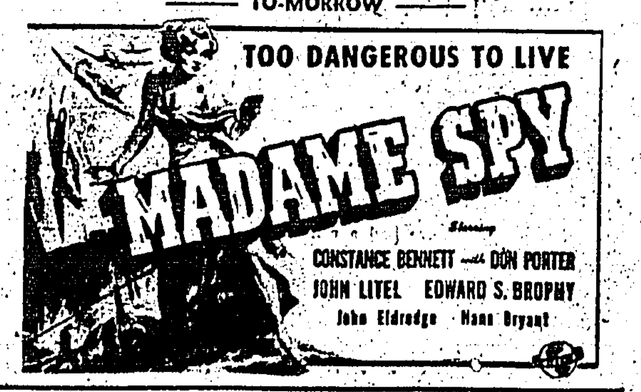
COMING SOON Stewart GRANGER · Phyllis CALVERT "THE MAGIC BOW"



TO-DAY ONLY ALHAMBRA THEATRE At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.



TO-MORROW



TO-DAY & TO-MORROW MAJESTIC At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.

"I'LL CORNER HIM, IF I HAVE TO TRACK HIM TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!"

DICK POWELL in "CORNERED"

with Walter SLEZAK · RKO-Radio Picture

Next Change: "MY SISTER EILEEN"

Jitterbugs, Be Warned!

London, Mar. 24.

Arthur Whitmarsh, 18, tailor's cutter, was fined 10 shillings to-day for—in the words of the officer who arrested him — "persisting in jitterbugging" in a London street.

Whitmarsh was charged formally with "insulting behaviour whereby a breach of peace might have been occasioned."

In levying the fine, Judge Rowland Thomas suggested that defendant "take up a little more manly sport."—United Press.

DEAD OR ALIVE?

MYSTERY OF HO CHI-MINH'S WHEREABOUTS

Paris, Mar. 24.

A French message from Indo-China to-night quoted the Viet Namh radio as having reported a statement by President Ho Chi-minh who, according to a telegram from Saigon earlier to-day, was rumoured to have died.

That telegram said his whereabouts have not been known for more than three months, and added: "No one knows whether he is alive."

To-night's message says it is believed that Ho Chi-minh addressed a press conference in Saigon yesterday, but that as the statement is similar to the previous ones from him it may have been recorded and cannot be relied on as disposing of the rumour either way.

The President is reported to have said: "The Viet Namh people will be ready for friendly collaboration with France within the framework of the French Union provided France recognises the independence and unity of our country and our entire liberty in the realm of foreign relation as is the case, for example, with the Philippines in regard to the United States and with India in regard to Great Britain.

"If such is not the decision of the French Parliament and if France plans to re-establish a colonial regime in Viet Namh, our people are determined to continue the battle."—Reuter.

NOTE ON CYPRUS ELIMINATED

Washington, Mar. 24.

The paragraphs which described the United States as favouring the cession of Cyprus to Greece and the establishment of free port facilities to Salonika, were withdrawn to-day from the documents relating to President Truman's programme of aid to Greece and Turkey. They had previously been made available to the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee and widely published in the press.

A memorandum on "United States relations with Greece" published textually in the United States press was the background of the working paper and was not intended to be a final statement of the United States position, it is authoritatively understood. The release of usually preparatory studies was exceptional, it was pointed out and the step was taken in view of the demands in Congress for their publication.—Reuter.

TURNED DOWN

London, Mar. 24.

A suggestion that British ex-employees of the Shanghai Municipal Council should be drafted into the British or Colonial civil service with appropriate seniority and pension rights, was not accepted by Mr Hector McNeil, Minister of States, in the House of Commons to-day.

He did not think that the suggestion—made by Lieut-Colonel Boles (Conservative) — would commend itself to his colleagues concerned.—Reuter.

New Oil Discovery

Cairo, Mar. 24.

The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey have discovered oil near Wadi Baba, an area of the Sinai Desert about 200 miles south-east of Suez, along the gulf of the Suez coast, it was reported here to-day.

The discovery, described as "promising," was made three weeks ago and is the first in ten years of prospecting by the Standard Oil in Sinai, where they have had a concession since before the war.

The discovery is not far from Ras Budr where Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields drilled an oil well in March last year.—Reuter.

Wartime Agreements: Texts Released

Washington, Mar. 24.

The State Department to-day made public the entire texts of the Teheran, Yalta and Potsdam Agreements, including the pact of February 11, 1945 by which the Kurils, Southern Sakhalin and concessions in Manchuria were promised in return for Russia's entry into the war against Japan.

Beyond the revelation that Russia agreed at Teheran to go to war against Bulgaria if that nation attacked Turkey, the texts contained little of major import that had not been previously announced informally or through communiques.

It was disclosed that at Teheran on December 1, 1943, the Big Three were negotiating to bring Turkey into the war. A statement on the military conclusions of the Teheran conference said the conference:

"1. Agreed that partisans of Yugo-Slavia should be supported by supplies and equipment to the greatest possible extent.

"2. Agreed that from a military point of view it was desirable that Turkey should come into war on the side of the Allies before the end of the year.

"3. Took note of Marshal Stalin's statement that if Turkey found herself at war with Germany and, as a result, Bulgaria declared war on Turkey or attacked her, the Soviet would immediately be at war with Bulgaria.

"The conference further took note that this fact could be explicitly stated in the forthcoming negotiations to bring Turkey into war."

Turkey declared war on Germany and Japan effective March 1, 1945.

Yalta Agreement

The text of the Yalta Agreement regarding Japan says:

"The Leaders of the three great powers—the Soviet Union, the United States of America and Great Britain—have agreed that in two or three months after Germany has surrendered and the war in Europe terminated the Soviet shall enter into war against Japan on the side of the Allies on condition that:

"1. The status quo of Outer Mongolia (the Mongolian People's Republic) shall be preserved.

"2. The former rights of Russia violated by the treacherous attack of Japan in, 1904 shall be restored viz: (a) the southern part of Sakhalin as well as all islands adjacent to it shall be returned to the Soviet Union; (b) the commercial port of Dairen shall be internationalised, the pre-eminent interests of the Soviet Union in this port being safeguarded, and the lease of Port Arthur as a naval base of the USSR restored. (c) the Chinese Eastern Railway and the South Manchurian Railway, which provide an outlet to Dairen, shall be jointly operated by the establishment of a joint Soviet-Chinese company, it being understood that the pre-eminent interests of the Soviet Union shall be safeguarded and that China shall retain full sovereignty in Manchuria.

Kurile Islands

3. The Kurile islands shall be handed over to the Soviet Union. It is understood that the agreement concerning Outer Mongolia and the ports and railways referred to above will require the concurrence of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. The President will take measures in order to obtain this concurrency on advice from Marshal Stalin.

"The heads of the three great powers have agreed that these claims of the Soviet Union shall be unquestionably fulfilled after Japan has been defeated. For its part, the Soviet Union expresses readiness to conclude with the National Government of China a pact of friendship and alliance between the USSR and China in order to render assistance to China with its armed forces for the purposes of liberating China from the Japanese yoke.

"Signed Joseph V. Stalin, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston S. Churchill."

Normandy Invasion

The text of the military conclusions reached at Teheran also recorded that Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill "took note" that the Normandy invasion would be launched during May 1944 in conjunction with attacks on southern France.

The text read:

"The conference further took note of Stalin's statement that Soviet forces would launch an offensive at about the same time with the object of preventing German forces from transferring from the Eastern to the Western front."

The Big Three agreed then that they should "henceforth keep in close touch with each other in regard to impending operations in Europe."

The Potsdam Agreement by Stalin, Churchill, Attlee and Truman provided that the Montreux Convention governing the Dardanelles should be revised as "failing to meet present day conditions."

Dardanelles Problem

The next steps, it is said, should be subject to direct conversation between each of the three governments and Turkey. These "next steps" to date have brought the Soviet demand on Turkey that Russia be given a direct share in the defence of the Dardanelles.

The United States and Britain opposed such an arrangement.

The Yalta conference also discussed the Montreux Convention. The then Foreign Ministers Edward Stettinius, Anthony Eden and V. M. Molotov, agreed that the question would be discussed at the next Foreign Secretaries' meeting in London.

The Soviets made it clear that they would put forth various proposals then. On the question of "dismemberment" of Germany, the Big Three agreed at Yalta that the surrender terms should include a section calling for "complete disarmament, demilitarisation and dismemberment of Germany as they have been a requisite for future peace and security."—United Press.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE

(Continued from Page 1)

and that is the whole basis of the idea on the tariff side of the negotiations to take place at Geneva and of those preparatory talks at present going forward between the Commonwealth and Britain in London."

Sir Stafford added: "We, of course, recognise in this relation that some industries, particularly agriculture perhaps, have been developed in Empire countries on the basis of markets assured by the Preference arrangements.

"We do not want suddenly to modify those Preferences to the extent which is going to cause real disturbance and distress in the Overseas' countries concerned and in the long term we can, I think, avoid any such result by the successful implementation of the term of the proposed trade charter.

"In the short term, the consultations that are now going on between representatives of the British Commonwealth countries should make all parties, including ourselves, fully aware of the dangers of sudden action of that kind and should, therefore, enable us to avoid them."

TARIFF BARGAINS

Referring to the limitations placed on the United States delegation to Geneva by the United States reciprocal trade agreements, Sir Stafford said that one had to accept them if one was going to have a bargain with America. "We believe that despite these limitations there is room in which we can work out a satisfactory bargain on the tariff side.

"We hope that it may be possible when the Geneva meeting is over to bring a good deal of this big bargain into operation between those countries which will have been participating at Geneva. The next step will be to bring the result before all the United Nations at a world conference and see whether we can get their co-operation in the plan of a worldwide trade organisation."

The Government believed that in the next three years one could hope for a progressive reduction of barriers and defensive mechanism.

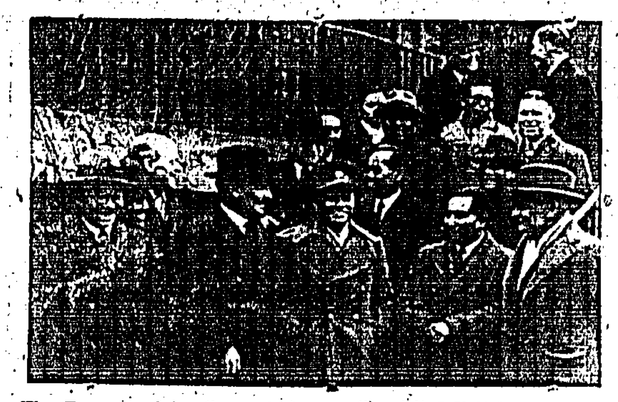
He concluded: "An international trade organisation is logical and a necessary complement to the International Monetary Fund and International Bank. It is a vital part in the postwar scheme of economic and financial co-operation on the international plane and to fail to go forward would be, I think, to tip the scales heavily in favour of a descent to restrictionism and uncontrolled economic conflict in the world and that would be equally dangerous to our standards of living and to international friendship and goodwill."—Reuter.

British Legion

Having received the necessary authority from headquarters, it is now possible to re-start the local branch of the British Legion, and all ex-active Service men and women of the two Wars are cordially invited to attend at a meeting to be held at the Canteen, Hongkong Volunteer Defence Corps Headquarters at 5.30 p.m. on Monday, 31st March to elect Officers.

E. J. R. Mitchell,
Former Committee Member.

BURMESE DELEGATION IN LONDON



The Burmese delegation which recently visited Britain to discuss independence in the grounds of No. 10 Downing Street. Prime Minister Attlee is seen talking to U Aung San, leader of the delegation.

$600,000,000 To Stop Communism In Korea

Washington, Mar. 24.

The Acting Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, to-day conceded that American anti-Communist intervention in Greece and Turkey would embark the United States upon a global policy opposing totalitarian threats to free nations everywhere.

The next big step in that direction—suggested to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—will probably be taken in Korea, now occupied half by the United States and half by Russia. He said the Administration will ask Congress for money—informed sources put the sum at $600,000,000—to spend in the U.S. zone of Korea in the next three years.

In effect the spending would be aimed at preventing Korea's collapse into Communism. This confirmed the United Press report of last week.

Testifying on the President's programme of aid to Greece and Turkey, Acheson was asked by the Committee chairman, Arthur Vandenberg, whether there would be need for assistance to other areas such as in the Far East.

Acheson said: "There will be requirements for expenditure of United States funds probably over the next three years in Korea." He said financial aid to Korea is necessary because the "Soviet Government has not been able or willing to proceed with discussions" for unifying Korea under a Korean Government.

Lead To Peace

Acheson reaffirmed his faith that the new "Truman doctrine" would lead the world to peace rather than into World War III by promoting international stability and furthering the aims of the United Nations.

He told the Committee that the proposed $400,000,000 Greek-Turkish aid programme is fully in line with the objectives of the United Nations, and hinted that a formal report will be sent to the world organisation shortly explaining why the United States plans to tackle the Mediterranean crisis on its own.

The Republican foreign policy leader, Arthur Vandenberg, urged the United States to inform the United Nations of the steps it intends to take in the proposed programme for Greece and Turkey. Acheson hinted that this would be done during the Senators' questioning.

Meanwhile, President Truman to-night summoned top leaders of Congress to the White House for a special evening conference which was linked to the growing Administration's drive for public and Congressional approval of the new foreign policy.

The White House summons was issued as a State Department spokesman confirmed that the programme of financial aid to Korea, roughly parallel to that proposed for Greece and Turkey was now under study by the State, War and Navy Departments.

Barrage Of Questions

The Korean programme carries a price tag, which has been estimated up to $600,000,000 over a three-year period. Added to the proposed $400,000,000 grants to Greece and Turkey, it would boost the cost of the Administration's new policy to the $1,000,000,000 mark.

Both Acheson and the Under-Secretary of State, William Clayton, who appeared before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, encountered a barrage of questions from Senators and Representatives who demanded to know why the American programme was bypassing the machinery of the United Nations.

Acheson reiterated the Administration pledge that American troops will not be dispatched to Greece and Turkey. Both he and Clayton indicated that further aid to Greece might be required after the initial 15-month period which the present programme is supposed to cover.—United Press.

ALL-OUT AID BY ARMY TO STOP FLOODS

London, Mar. 24.

All-out military efforts to stem the flood waters surging through the two gaps in the Ouse, in the Fenland district near Ely, were being made to-day. These two breaches alone have led to the flooding or 130 square miles of rich fen to an average depth of three or four feet.

This afternoon, 10 Neptune tanks loaded with five tons of ballast were being moved into a semi-circle around one side of the Earith breach. The space left will be filled with 240 tons of sandbags and sandbags will also be thrown under the tracks of each tank as it moves into position. Two other Neptunes will stand by with torpedo and anti-submarine netting to stop the rush of water. Others will stand out in midstream as anchors for those moving into the gap.

Work will also begin to close the gap at Hilgay to-day. It is hoped that a ship will be sunk across the breach, but it will be difficult to find a vessel of the right dimensions which can negotiate the fenland locks and bridges up to the site. It must be 12 feet high, 100 feet long and have 250 tons of burden load.

York Flooded

The floods spread north over the week-end, and the ancient city of York was to-day virtually cut in two by water two and three feet deep in the main streets.

Troops worked throughout the night to save the waterworks from flooding, and to-day carried men and women to work in collapsible boats. They have distributed food from high lorries to those marooned in bedrooms.

The position in the Thames valley continued to improve, and although there are still floods the river is everywhere below bank level. The Lea Bridge pumping station began work to-day supplying water to a million Londoners, who had been without it for a week.—Reuter.

No Intervention

Rio de Janeiro, Mar. 24.

The Brazilian Foreign Office, together with the War and Air Ministries, to-day issued a statement that Brazil would in no way intervene in the Paraguayan revolt, either by supplying arms or by offering refuge to fleeing political or army leaders.—Reuter.

BEVIN HAS INTERVIEW WITH PREMIER STALIN

Moscow, Mar. 24.

The British Foreign Secretary, Mr Ernest Bevin, conferred to-night with Generalissimo Josef Stalin, and it was authoritatively learned that Mr Bevin urged the strengthening and extension of the Anglo-Russian alliance against German aggression.

Mr Bevin is also understood to be ready to discuss with Generalissimo Stalin the United States proposal for a four-power pact covering German demilitarisation for 40 years.

Meanwhile, the French delegation has proposed to the Foreign Ministers the suspension of the transfer of Germans from Poland and Czecho-Slovakia, and has called for a four-power conference in Paris before July 1 to organise the migration of Germans into France and other suitable countries.

The Ministers' conference is in recess but will reconvene to-morrow for the third week of discussions on Germany and Austria.—Associated Press.

Big Four To See Ballet

Moscow, Mar. 24.

US Secretary of State Gen George Marshall and Ambassador Walter Bedell Smith to-day entertained American reporters at Spaso House.

The Americans concede that the conference has moved faster than anticipated. Already it has reached the horse-trading stage—finding the Americans restrained and with a feeling of optimism, although the only agreement of any kind existing among the Big Four is an Anglo-American agreement on German confederation.

The second big social event will take place to-morrow night, when Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov will be host at a special command performance of the ballet "Romeo and Juliet," with Prokofieff's music, in the one-time Czarist opera house, the Bolshoi Theatre. The Big Four will sit together in the former Czar's box.

This will be Gen Marshall's first official public appearance in Moscow, though he shocks Moscovites by daily morning walks in the Spaso neighbourhood.—United Press.

U.S. Telephone Strike

Washington, Mar. 24.

The Policy Committee of the National Federation of Telephone Workers voted to-day to call a nation-wide strike on the Bell Telephone system on April 7.—Associated Press.

MEN WHO KILL LIKE LIONS

Tanganyika Terror

Dar-es-Salaam, Mar. 24.

Gangs of "lion men" who kill under the hypnotic influence of native witch-doctors and mark their victims in the manner of lions have terrorized the Singida district of Tanganyika with at least 40 murders.

The police are holding three suspected "lion men" for trial and are investigating others, but so far have found no official explanation for the outbreak of killings.

White residents of Singida believe, however, that the two native chiefs of the district are feuding and bribed their witch-doctors to hire assassins.

DRESS IN SKINS

The killers dress themselves in lion skins and attack their victims with knives, leaving long wounds resembling the marks of lions' teeth and claws. The police have been hampered in their investigation by the recent increased activity of man-killing, four-footed lions, whose victims are sometimes indistinguishable from those of the lion men.

The police found evidence that the killers are paid from US$3-4 for each murder. Both the victims and the killers belong to the primitive Wanyaturra tribe in the village of Mgori, about 20 miles from Singida.

Friends and relatives of the victims refuse to give information to the police for fear they will be next on the lion men's list. Only one victim has been discovered who recovered from an attack and she immediately changed her story to say it was a real lion that scratched and bit her.—United Press.

OUTWARD MAILS

Unless otherwise stated Registered Articles and Parcel Posts close 30 minutes earlier than the time stated below.

Tuesday, March 25

Airmail:
Shanghai, Peiping, 3.30 p.m.
Seamail:
Manila, USA, Central and South America, Canada (via San Francisco), 3 p.m.
Kongmoon, 4 p.m.
Macao, Tsinshan, Shekki, 4 p.m.
Train:
Canton, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, March 26

Airmail:
Saigon, Singapore, Colombo, Sydney, Auckland, London, 3.30 p.m.
Canton, Liuchow, Kunming, Amoy, Nanking, Hankow, Tsingtao, Peiping, Foochow, Shanghai, 3.30 p.m.
Seamail:
Saigon, Swatow, Amoy, noon.
Swatow, Bangkok, 3 p.m.
Shanghai, 3 p.m.
Manila, Batavia, 3 p.m.
Australia (via Sydney), 3 p.m.
Tsamkong, 4 p.m.
Kongmoon, 4 p.m.
Macao, Tsinshan, Shekki, 4 p.m.
Train:
Canton, 4 p.m.

Thursday, March 27

Airmail:
Shanghai, Peiping, 3.30, p.m.
Seamail:
Canton, 9 a.m.
Swatow, noon.
Haiphong, noon.
Shanghai, 2 p.m.
Straits, Madras, 3 p.m.
Shanghai, 4 p.m.
Kongmoon, 4 p.m.
Macao, Tsinshan, Shekki, 4 p.m.
Train:
Canton, 4 p.m.

TO-DAY'S RADIO

ZBW on 845 kilocycles from 12.30 to 2 p.m. and 6.30 to 11 p.m., and also on 9.52 megacycles in the 31 metre band from 12.30 to 1.15, 6.30 to 7.30 and 9 to 11 p.m. H.K.T.

6.30 Tunes of Not-So-Long-Ago; 7 London Relay: World News; 7.10 London Relay: Home News from Britain; 7.15 Studio: Moszkowski Recital by Michael Boder (Piano) (By Courtesy of the Parisian Grill); 7.35 Studio: Russian Recital by Sonia Maximova (Contralto) With Piano Accompaniment by Betty Drown; 7.55 Symphony Concert by the BBC Symphony Orchestra; 8.15 London Transcription Service: "The English Theatre" "The Elizabethan Theatre"; 8.30 Light Variety; 9 London Relay: News; 9.10 Studio: Radio Magazine—Compiled by Robert Sloss; 10 Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters; 10.15 Relay of Dance Orchestra from the Paramount Ballroom; 11 Close down.

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NOTICE

WITNESSES WANTED

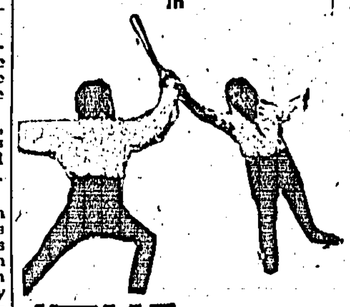
George Edgar Skynner Upsdell, deceased

Will any person who witnessed the will of the above named deceased in Stanley Camp in 1944 or who knows anything of the contents of the will please communicate with Wilkinson & Grist, Solicitors for Mrs G. E. S. Upsdell.

COMING TO THE KING'S

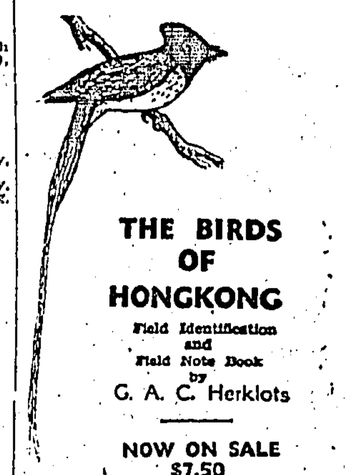
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PHYLLIS CALVERT
in



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Marie Lohr
Violin Solos by
YEHUDI MENUHIN
Accompanied by the
NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
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With Violin Solos By
YEHUDI MENUHIN
Accompanied by the National Symphony Orchestra
with
JEAN KENT DENNIS PRICE
CECIL PARKER FELIX AYLMER

A Gainsborough Picture — Released by Eagle-Lion

Watch for the Opening Date.

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At 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m.

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GORDON OLIVER · ELSA LANCHESTER
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